

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 841SLAMAO04971

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ACTION NEA-11INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02
EB-08 DODE-00 IO-15 HA-08 PM-09 EAP-00 RP-10
SP-06 /072 W -----344366 110408Z /72R 110341Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3119
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
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AMEMBASSY DHAKA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 06 ISLAMABAD 04971

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/PAB AND RP/ASIA

USCINCCENT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KPRP, PREL, SREF, AF, PK, JL US
SUBJECT: IMPACT OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PRESENCE ON
PAKISTAN: FOUR YEARS AFTER THE SOVIET INVASIONREFS: A. ISLAMABAD 4195 (PESHAWAR 145) NOTAL;
B. KARACHI 1600 NOTAL; C. ISLAMABAD 927 (PESHAWAR
57) NOTAL; D. 82 ISLAMABAD 19521

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1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOP POLICY CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE
THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PRESENCE AND
THE EXPECTATION THAT MOST REFUGEES WILL RETURN TO THEIR
HOMES SHOULD THERE BE A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
LEADING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES. OVER THE
LAST FIFTEEN MONTHS, HOWEVER, THE GOP IN COOPERATION WITH

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UNHCR HAS BEGUN TO ADOPT ON-THE-GROUND POLICIES OF INCOME GENERATION, TRAINING AND SELF-RELIANCE. ALTHOUGH SMALL SCALE, THESE ARE NEW STEPS IN A PROCESS OF DE-FACTO ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND GRADUAL ASSIMILATION OF REFUGEES INTO PAKISTAN.

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END SUMMARY.

3. A MAJOR CONSEQUENCE OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN THE CONTINUOUS INFLUX OF AFGHAN REFUGEES INTO PAKISTAN, PARTICULARLY INTO THE NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN. ALTHOUGH NOW ONLY NUMBERING A FEW THOUSAND A MONTH, THE INFLUX HAS RESULTED IN OVER TWO MILLION REFUGEES PRESENTLY LIVING IN PAKISTAN. IN OUR PREVIOUS REPORT 15 MONTHS AGO ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF THIS INFLUX ON PAKISTANI SOCIETY AND ECONOMY (REF D) WE NOTED A

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NUMBER OF FACTORS WHICH REMAIN VALID TODAY: (A) INCREAS-
ING PAKISTANI CONCERN THAT THE AFGHAN REFUGEES ARE HERE
TO STAY PERMANENTLY; (B) CONSIDERABLE INTERACTION BETWEEN
THE REFUGEES AND THE LOCAL POPULATION, AND (C) THE
BEGINNING OF THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES INTO THE PUNJAB
ON THE WEST BANK OF THE INDUS. WE OBSERVED THAT THE GOP

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3120
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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...SUBJECT: IMPACT OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PRESENCE ON

...AS FACING A MAJOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEM IN ACCOMMODATING
...THIS LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND THAT IT WOULD BE WELL
...SERVED BY A POLICY PERMITTING ASSIMILATION WITHOUT LABELING
...IT AS SUCH.
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4. SINCE DECEMBER 1982 THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL
MEASURE OF DE-FACTO INTEGRATION OF THE REFUGEES INTO THE
FABRIC OF PAKISTANI LIFE. A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE
AFGHANISTAN PROBLEM PERMITTING THE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO
THEIR HOMES SEEMS AS DISTANT (IF NOT MORE SO) TODAY THAN
IN LATE 1982. THE OFFICIAL GOP POSITION REMAINS THAT THE
REFUGEES ARE HERE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. THIS POLICY IS
DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO PUT CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE

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SOVIETS BUT ALSO TO ASSURE THE DONOR COUNTRIES THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY OF A TEMPORARY NATURE.

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•••••
••••• COSTS: THE REFUGEES IMPOSE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND
••••• BIOLOGICAL COSTS ON PAKISTAN. IN THE NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN
••••• REFUGEES HAVE ENCRONCHED ON WATER SUPPLY, FUEL SUPPLY,
••••• GRAZING TERRITORY, AND LAND ITSELF. DOMESTIC ANIMALS
••••• HAVE MULTIPLIED. STRIPPING OF TREES AND BRUSH FOR FIRE-
••••• WOOD HAS BEEN A GENERAL PRACTICE AROUND THE REFUGEE
••••• CAMPS, WITH RESULTANT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. THE LAND SET
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••••• ASIDE FOR REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE NWFP IS OFTEN GOOD
••••• AGRICULTURAL LAND, AND THE OWNERS ARE THEREBY DEPRIVED
••••• OF A SOURCE OF INCOME. MANY LANDLORDS SAY THEY HAVE NOT
••••• BEEN COMPENSATED FOR LAND OCCUPIED BY REFUGEES, OR IF SO
••••• HAVE HAD TO TAKE LESS THAN THE GOING COMMERCIAL RATE.
••••• THE RESENTMENT IS THERE, BUT SO FAR HAS BEEN CONTAINED
••••• WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE DIFFICULTY.

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AS LONG AS MANY WORKERS FROM NWFP
REMAIN IN THE GULF, THE MIX BETWEEN THE AFGHAN REFUGEES

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R 110341Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3121
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/PAB AND RP/ASIA

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SUBJECT: IMPACT OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PRESENCE ON

AND LOCAL POPULATION SHOULD REMAIN MANAGEABLE. ON AN
INDIVIDUAL BASIS, WE ALSO EXPECT THAT MORE AFGHANS WILL
DRIFT TOWARD SIND AND ESPECIALLY TOWARD THE PORT OF
KARACHI WHERE THERE ALREADY ARE MANY THOUSANDS.

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9. NWFP. DURING 1983 THERE WAS A NOTABLE INCREASE IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS BETWEEN LOCALS AND REFUGEES, BUT THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IS STILL REMARKABLY LOW GIVEN THE MULTIPLE POINTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN THESE TWO GROUPS. THE KURRAM AGENCY REMAINS A VOLATILE AREA, WITH THE BORDER TOWN OF PARACHINAR PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. KURRAM'S SHIA TURI TRIBESMEN HAVE BEEN CAUSED EXTREME DISCOMFORT BY THE INFLUX OF SUNNI AFGHANS WHO NOW ALMOST EQUAL THEIR NUMBERS. CLASHES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE KURRAM AGENCY ALMOST SINCE THE START OF THE

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REFUGEE INFLUX INTO PAKISTAN. THE LARGE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED BY CONSUL PESHAWAR IN 1983 INCLUDE AN ANTI-REFUGEE RALLY IN SWABI, THE BAN ON MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO THE MALAKAND AND HAZARA DISTRICTS, A STONING IN BUNER (SWAT), AN ALTERCATION OVER LAND IN THE PESHAWAR AREA, AND A KIDNAPPING IN BAJAUR. ALREADY IN 1984, LANDI KOTAL HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF A DYNAMITING INCIDENT WHILE REFUGEES IN THE MOHMAND AGENCY HAVE REFUSED TO BE RESETTLED. SEE REF A FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN NWFP.

10. BALUCHISTAN. THE GOP IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR REENUMERATION OF REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN WITH THE ANNOUNCED AIM OF REDUCING THE OFFICIAL POPULATION FROM 700,000 TO 560,000. THE ACTUAL NUMBER ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES IS PROBABLY EVEN LOWER. EVEN GOP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THE LOW REFUGEE HEAD COUNT. THE PRESENCE OF EVEN 300,000-500,000 REFUGEES IN THIS SPARSELY POPULATED PROVINCE, HOWEVER, HAS EXACERBATED LONG EXISTING TENSIONS BETWEEN BALUCH AND PATHAN INHABITANTS.

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11. THE PUNJAB. A STRIKING FEATURE OF THE PAST 14
MONTHS HAS BEEN THE LIMITED SUCCESS OF THE GOP'S

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EFFORT TO MOVE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF REFUGEES INTO THE ISA KHEL AREA (MIANWALI DISTRICT) ON THE WEST BANK OF THE INDUS. THE GOP ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED TWO CAMPS HOLDING A TOTAL OF 200,000 PEOPLE. HOWEVER TO DATE ONLY ABOUT 65,000 REFUGEES ARE IN ONE CAMP (KOT CHANDNA). A SECOND SMALLER CAMP WITH A CAPACITY OF 10,000-15,000 IS READY TO RECEIVE REFUGEES. WE EXPECT THAT THE GOP WILL ENCOUNTER SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES IN FILLING IT. THE DECISION TO KEEP THE REFUGEES IN THE NORTHWEST POCKET OF THE PUNJAB ON THE WEST BANK OF THE INDUS HAS REDUCED THEIR INTERACTION WITH PUNJABIS. THE TERRAIN IS SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE (IF NOT TEMPERATURE) TO PART OF THE NWFP AND AFGHANISTAN, AND AT LEAST SOME OF THE LOCAL POPULATION THERE SPEAKS PASHTO.

12. KEY VARIABLES: IN OUR VIEW, THE INTERACTION BETWEEN LOCAL POPULATIONS AND AFGHAN REFUGEES WILL REMAIN A SENSITIVE BUT MANAGEABLE ISSUE.

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14. CONCLUSION: IN OUR VIEW RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHAN
REFUGEES AND LOCAL POPULATIONS WILL REMAIN MANAGEABLE.
ALBEIT WITH FRICTIONS AND BEARING IN MIND THE ECONOMIC
CONSIDERATIONS NOTED ABOVE

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ACTION NEA-11

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16. THIS REPORT IS SHOWN IN THE MISSION REPORTING
PLAN AS QUOTE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AFGHAN
REFUGEES FOUR YEARS AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION

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UNQUOTE.

17. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HINTON

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